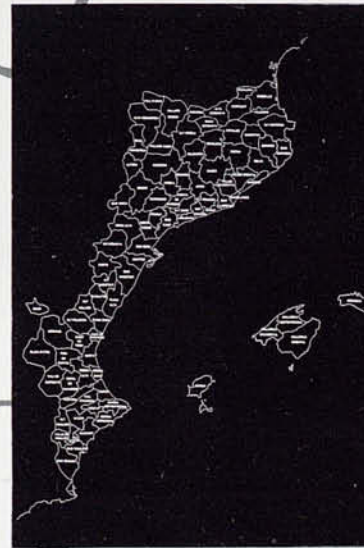


EDITORIAL

The Catalan-speaking peoples share, with the other cultures bathed by the Mediterranean, a sense of proportion and a taste for creativity. Catalan language and culture express, in different ways, a life-style which reveals rationality and feeling, work and play, reality and desire, recollection of the past and plans for the future, sensuality and abstraction. The millenary culture of the Catalan people is not lived nostalgically, but as an inspiration and an energy permitting answers to the challenges of the present and previsions of the future. Catalan culture has been reborn with renewed vigour after the repression suffered during the years of the dictatorship (1939-1975). The magazine *Catalònia* will present direct, regular and selected information on the vitality of Catalan culture. Without forgetting the necessary references to this culture's past, it will put the emphasis on modernity and new trends.

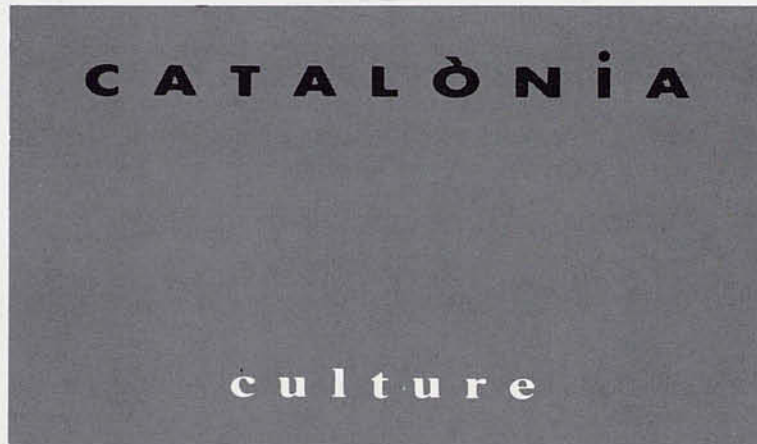
Geographically, the Catalan peoples occupy the north-east of the Iberian peninsula, the extreme south-east of France and the westernmost islands of the Mediterranean. These lands form a whole which, in the course of history, has experienced various forms of political unity and self-government. With the sister-lands of Aragon they constituted an independent state which lasted from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries. Then they formed a federal state with other Hispanic kingdoms, which lasted until the beginning of the eighteenth century. At present, under the Spanish constitution of 1978, Catalonia, Valencia and the Balearic Islands each have a statute of autonomy which allows them a limited form of self-government. The Principality of Andorra, which is also a sovereignty shared by French and Spanish states, is recognized as a sovereignty shared by French and Spanish states. The magazine's aims are cultural, will not involve political debate, and will only give information about Catalan politics to the extent that it helps to events.

Since Spain's entry into the European Economic Community in 1986, the Catalan people have joined in the great political and cultural project of the construction of Europe. Catalan culture has always considered itself a part of European culture. On the one hand, the Catalans have absorbed the spiritual, social and aesthetic trends of Europe, and on the other hand, they have influenced European cultural adventures. It must be pointed out that the Catalan-speaking peoples comprise a population as big as that of some member-states of the European Economic Community (9 million inhabi-



tants). They do not represent a cultural minority. Catalan culture, like so many others in the world, occupies a position between the cultures of the great international languages and the cultures of minority groups. The magazine *Catalònia*, therefore, will provide information about a European culture which is little known due to its intermediate geographical extension, and the inexistence of a state which corresponds to its linguistic borders.

The Catalan-speaking peoples believe that linguistic diversity is not a negative factor in international relations, in spite of the technical problems it presents. The fear of cultural, ethnic, sexual, religious and political diversity is a path which leads to discrimination and oppression. Freedom, justice and beauty are achieved when diversity is accepted, when new harmonies are created, when one values every concrete thing and word. In the charm of human life lies mysterious diversity of international life lies in the peoples with original cultures. In our times, the fight for the defense of the identity. In this sense, stands side by side with those involved in the struggle for human dignity, which is largely cultural identity and development.



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A few weeks ago, Barcelona, capital of Catalonia, was chosen to be the seat of the 1992 Olympic Games. This decision will doubtless help to concentrate international attention on this foremost city in the countries of Catalan culture. In the modern world, large cities exercise an indisputable cultural protagonism. Barcelona is one of the most fascinating cities of the Europe of today. In the next few years, the dynamic quality which has led it to obtain the Olympic designation will also be expressed in all cultural dimensions: science and technology, ideas, symbols and values, institutions and enterprises, literature and art, politics and economy, the media and the art of living. *Catalònia* will provide the reader with information that corresponds to a multidimensional creativity and which, in the case of the countries of Catalan culture, expresses itself in all the different forms of contemporary culture.

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